

Protection

## California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## **North Coast Region**

Ross R. Liscum, Chairman



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September 3, 1999

# AGENDA REGIONAL WATER BOARD MEETING

8:30 AM, September 23, 1999 Regional Water Quality Control Board DCJ Hearing Room 5550 Skylane Boulevard Santa Rosa, California

\*\* Estimated times of consideration - Items are numbered for convenience only and will not necessarily be considered in this order. Interested persons are encouraged to be present in advance of the listed time.

8:30 AM\*\*

- i. Roll Call and Introductions
- ii. Minutes of Past Meetings
- iii. Introduction of New Employees
- iv. Public Forum Time will be reserved for the general public to address the Board on any subject relating to the Board's responsibilities. The Chair will determine the number of persons who wish to speak. The Chair requests that each person addressing the Board limit their presentation to three minutes. More lengthy items may be calendared for a future meeting.
- v. The consent items are expected to be routine and noncontroversial. It is recommended that these items be adopted by the Board at the beginning of the meeting without discussion. If any interested party, Board Member, or staff member requests that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar, it will be considered separately.

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Ukiah, City of - Wastewater Treatment Facility, NPDES Permit Renewal CA 002288 WDID No. 1B840290MEN Scott Gergus



- B. Barlow Company and the City of Sebastopol Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements, WDID No. 1B810190SON Nathan Quarles
- C. Waste Discharge Requirements for Seghesio Wineries, Inc., 14730 Grove Street, Healdsburg, Sonoma County Rhonda Raymond
- D. Syar Industries, Inc., National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for the operation of the Basalt Terrace Mining Excavation Pond Weir.

Nathan Quarles

#### **CORRECTIVE ACTION**

1. **PUBLIC HEARING** to consider an Administrative Civil Liability in the matter of Reza Baghery and Khalil Mokalla for failure to comply with Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 97-111 and Time Schedule Order No. 97-112

Joan Fleck

Following the hearing, the Board may adjourn to a closed session to consider evidence received at the hearing and whether to initiate litigation. Authority: Government Code, Section 11126, Subdivisions (c)(3), and (e)(2)(C)(i).

- PUBLIC HEARING to consider City of Santa Rosa, Interim NPDES

   Laguna Subregional Wastewater Facility and revise the time
   schedule contained in Cease and Desist Order No. 85-35. \*
   Tuck Vath
  - Pending only with Appointment of Two Board Members •
- 3. **PUBLIC HEARING** to consider whether to affirm, reject, or modify a Complaint for Administrative Civil Liability issued on July 22, 1999 and/or take other enforcement action in the matter of Russian River County Sanitation District for Violations of Waste Discharge Requirements, Order No. 92-51, and the Water Quality Control Plan For The North Coast Region, Sonoma County (Complaint No. 99-51 for \$140,000 was issued after hearing on July 22, 1999, \$100,000 was suspended conditioned upon successful completion of a supplemental Environment Project which was detailed in the complaint.)

Following the hearing, the Board may adjourn to a closed session to consider evidence received at the hearing and whether to initiate litigation. Authority: Government Code, Section 11126, Subdivisions (c)(3), and (e)(2)(C)(i).

- 4. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
  - a. Reorganization Update

Lee Michlin



b. Update on Executive Officers Administrative Civil Liability Authority  $Lee\ Michlin$ 

c. Standard NPDES Language

Bob Tancreto

d. Report on the Status of Underground Storage Tank Issues and MtBE

Tom Dunbar

e. Dairy Update
Salisbury

f. Budget Updateg. Violations and Enforcement Report

h. Ombudsman role

i. Enforcement initiatives
Johnson

j. Other Items of Interest Michlin Craig Johnson Craig Johnson

Craig Johnson

Dennis

Craig

Lee

#### OTHER BUSINESS

5. Update on Outreach, Progress, and Implementation of Roseland Action Plan, County of Sonoma

Susan Warner

6. Update on Winter Readiness of NPDES Permit Holders in the Russian River

Bob Tancreto

7. Update and Overview on Region-wide Implementation of TMDL's Dave Evans

Article 11, Division 3, Chapter 16, Title 23, California Code of Regulations requires public notice for certain corrective actions related to releases from underground tanks.

This section satisfies the public notice requirements and is in addition to any notice for corrective actions given elsewhere in this agenda.

8. The following sites have completed Corrective Action and no further corrective action is required [pursuant to Section 2728(d)(2)]. Those Responsible Parties who are claimants to the petroleum underground tank cleanup fund are identified by a "+":

Mendocino County

Chevron # 9-6188, 2 Main Street, North, Willits, California,

Case No. 1TMC033

Siskiyou County

Somes Bar General Store, 99531 Highway 96,

Case No. 1TSI143

Somes Bar, California

Sonoma County

Bertoli, Augustine, 1234 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa, California, Case No. 1TSR211 Exxon, 920 Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa, California, Case No. 1TSR193

- 9. Leaking Underground Storage Tanks/Sewage Spills
- 10. State and Regional Water Board Communications



11. Public Notice of Pending Requests for Water Quality Certification (Clean Water Act Section 401).

The Regional Water Board processes requests for certification, pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, that a proposed federally permitted construction activity will comply with the Board's water quality standards. A listing of requests, which are pending Regional Water Board action, includes the following:

(i) The USDA U.S. Forest Service, Klamath National Forest Goosenest Ranger District proposes levee construction for the Orr Lake Wetland Restoration Project, located near the community of Bray. The project will include constructing 5800 feet of dike, and three water control structures (two existing and one new). The project objective is to replace existing diversion and irrigation system, provide better control over diversions to maintain water quality and quantity in Butte Creek, and improve 300 acres of seasonal wetlands.

The new levee will have a 12 feet top width, 5 to 1 side slopes and a variable height of 2 feet to 4 feet. The levee embankment will require 4,608 cu.yds. of fill with a surface area of 4.7 acres. No impacts to waterways, wildlife or critical habitat from the proposed construction activity are anticipated. Construction is schedule to begin during the summer and fall of year 2000. (Manuel Baldenegro)

(ii) California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), North Region has requested Water Quality Certification for placing fill in jurisdictional waters of the U.S. to repair an eroded streambank and prevent roadway damage. The site is located along Mc Dowell Creek on State Route 175 Post Mile 5.3 (MEN-175-5.3) east of Old Hopland, Mendocino County. Approximately 80 lineal feet of streambank will receive approximately 120 cubic yards of rock slope protection. At the site, Mc Dowell Creek is an ephemeral stream and no sensitive biological resources will be affected. Caltrans will implement avoidance measures and construction conditions to prevent impacts to waterways, wildlife or critical habitat from the proposed construction activity. Construction is to begin during the late summer or early fall of 1999 and be of short duration.

Caltrans has submitted an application for a California Department of Fish and Game 1603 Stream Alteration Agreement. A completed application was submitted on April 30, 1999. Staff has determined that this project is exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Title 14, CCR, Section 15301(c) as a repair to an existing highway. Staff proposes to determine that the project complies with the waiver of waste discharge requirements contained in resolution No. 87-113 after a 15-day comment period which ends on September 21, 1999. (Scott A. Gergus)

(iii) Mr. Richard Simon of Simon Limited Partnership, has requested certification for placing fill in jurisdictional waters of the U.S. to stabilize an eroding riverbank. The proposed project will be located along the west bank of the West Fork of the Russian River at 9100 East Road in Redwood Valley, Mendocino County. The purpose of the project is to repair a damaged weir, minimize bank erosion, and capture sediment allowing the bank to build up again. The applicant proposes to place five cubic yards of 0.5 to 1.4 ton rock rip-rap along the downhill side of an existing weir structure that crosses the river. Additionally, two or three rock bank-barbs will be constructed along the west bank of the river. Each bank-barb will consist of 40 to 50 cubic yards of 0.25-ton rock. All work will be performed during summer low flow conditions and out of the flowing stream.

The applicant has applied to the California Department of Fish and Game for a Stream Alteration Agreement. A completed application was received on February 3, 1999. Staff has determined that this project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Title 14, CCR, section 15301 as a repair of an existing private structure and maintenance of a stream channel. Staff proposes to determine that the project complies with the waiver of waste discharge requirements contained in resolution No. 87-113 after a 15-day comment period which ends on September 21, 1999. (Scott A. Gergus)

(iv) Forest, Soil and Water, Inc., has requested certification for placing fill in jurisdictional waters of the U.S. to restore fisheries habitat. The proposed project will be located on String and Elk Creeks. Elk Creek is tributary to String Creek, tributary to Tomki Creek and the Middle Fork Eel River. Fisheries restoration projects will occur at approximately 48 sites beginning approximately at the confluence of String and Rocktree Creeks and extending upstream for approximately 20,000 feet. The projects will stabilize approximately 2,020 lineal feet of eroding streambank using boulder wing deflectors, digger logs, boulder rip-rap, willow staking, willow brush mattresses, willow and rock revetments, willow wall revetments, live vegetated crib walls, and brush check dams. String Creek is a perennial stream flowing within well defined banks. The stream is actively down cutting and eroding streambanks. Minor disturbances to riparian vegetation and fish habitat during project construction is anticipated. Construction is scheduled to occur during the summer and fall of 1999. No heavy equipment will be used in the live stream.

A California Department of Fish and Game Stream Alteration Agreement has been applied for. A completed application was received on August 17, 1999. Staff has determined that this project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Title 14, CCR, section 15301(i) as maintenance of stream flows and stream channel to protect fish and wildlife and section 15304(d) as a minor alteration to land, water, and vegetation for improvement to fish and wildlife resources. National Marine Fisheries Service issued a non-jeopardy biological opinion on August 26, 1997. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued Regional General Permit #22323 to the Department of Fish and Game to conduct in-stream habitat improvements using methods described in the California Stream Habitat restoration manual. Staff proposes to determine that the project complies with the waiver of waste discharge requirements contained in resolution No. 87-113 after a 15-day comment period which ends on September 21, 1999. (Scott A. Gergus)

(v) Forest, Soil and Water, Inc., has requested certification for placing fill in jurisdictional waters of the U.S. to restore fisheries habitat. The proposed project will be located on Austin Creek, on the Cazadero Performing Arts Camp at 5385 Cazadero Highway, approximately one-mile downstream from Cazadero, Sonoma County. Austin Creek is tributary to the Russian River and contains the listed species of concern steelhead trout, coho salmon, and California freshwater shrimp. The purpose of the project is to provide habitat for salmon and steelhead trout by increasing the number of pools and decreasing the stream channel width with high complexity. Fisheries restoration projects will occur at approximately 15 sites using boulder wing deflectors; log, rootwad and boulder combinations; digger logs, willow siltation baffles, and planting riparian vegetation. Austin Creek is a perennial stream, meandering through large gravel bars within a wide channel with well defined banks. Minor disturbances to riparian vegetation and fish habitat during project construction is anticipated. Construction is scheduled to occur during the summer and fall of 1999. No heavy equipment will be used in the live stream.

A California Department of Fish and Game Stream Alteration Agreement has been applied for. A completed application was received on August 17, 1999. Staff has determined that this project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Title 14, CCR, section 15304(d) as a minor alteration to land, water, and vegetation for improvement to fish and wildlife resources. National Marine Fisheries Service issued a non-jeopardy biological opinion on August 26, 1997. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued Regional General Permit #22323 of The Department of Fish and Game to conduct in-stream habitat improvements using methods described in the California Stream Habitat restoration manual. Staff proposes to determine that the project complies with the waiver of waste discharge requirements contained in resolution No. 87-113 after a 15-day comment period which ends on September 21, 1999. (Scott A. Gergus)

(vi) Mr. Everett Shapiro, has requested Water Quality Certification for placing fill in jurisdictional waters of the U.S. to construct the Airport One project. The 3.21-acre site is located at 1606 Airport Boulevard in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County. Approximately 0.15 acres of seasonally ponded wetlands considered to be of low value will be filled. No endangered plant species are present on the property. Filled wetlands will be mitigated through the purchase of 0.20 acres of wetland preservation "credits" at an offsite location.

A California Department of Fish and Game Stream Alteration Agreement is not necessary. The application was received July 22, 1999. To complete the application, additional information was submitted on August 20, 1999. A negative declaration for the project was approved by the Sonoma County Project Review and Advisory Committee on August 10, 1995. The Regional Board has considered the negative declaration. Staff proposes to determine that the project complies with the waiver of waste discharge requirements contained in resolution No. 87-113 after a 15-day comment period which ends on September 21, 1999. (Scott A. Gergus)

(vii) Sonoma County Regional Parks has requested Water Quality Certification for placing fill in jurisdictional waters of the U.S. to repair and stabilize an eroding shoreline at Spud Point Marina. The site is located along the shoreline of Bodega Bay at the Spud Point Marina, 1818 Westshore Road, Bodega Bay, Sonoma County. 1998 storm damage has eroded approximately 1,050 feet of breakwater adjacent to the marina parking lot, sidewalk, and Westshore Road. Seven areas have suffered erosion totaling 3,820 square feet. Approximately 840 cubic yards of class II roadbase and 670 cubic yards of 24 to 48-inch rip-rap will be used to repair the damaged shoreline. Construction is expected to occur during the late summer and fall of 1999.

A California Department of Fish and Game Stream Alteration Agreement is not necessary. A completed application was received July 22, 1999. Staff has determined that this project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Title 14, CCR, section 15301(d) as restoration of a damaged existing structure to meet current standards of public health and safety, and Section 15304(c) as a minor alteration to land. Staff proposes to determine that the project complies with the waiver of waste discharge requirements contained in resolution No. 87-113 after a 15-day comment period which ends on September 21, 1999. (Scott A. Gergus)

(viii) Sonoma County Regional Parks has requested Water Quality Certification for placing fill in jurisdictional waters of the U.S. to repair and stabilize the eroding Porto Bodega Marina Parking Lot. The site is located along the shoreline of Bodega Bay at the Porto Bodega Marina parking lot, Bayflat Road, Bodega Bay, Sonoma County. 1998 storm damage has eroded approximately 525 feet of the parking lot. Approximately 560 cubic yards of class



II roadbase and 1,200 cubic yards of 24 to 48-inch rip-rap will be placed in an 8550 square foot area to repair the damaged shoreline. Construction is expected to occur during the late summer and fall of 1999.

A California Department of Fish and Game Stream Alteration Agreement is not necessary. A completed application was received July 22, 1999. Staff has determined that this project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Title 14, CCR, section 15301(d) as restoration of a damaged existing structure to meet current standards of public health and safety, and Section 15304(c) as a minor alteration to land. Staff proposes to determine that the project complies with the waiver of waste discharge requirements contained in resolution No. 87-113 after a 15-day comment period which ends on September 21, 1999. (Scott A. Gergus)

(ix) Sonoma County Regional Parks has requested Water Quality Certification for placing fill in jurisdictional waters of the U.S. to repair and stabilize the eroding Stillwater Cove Park facilities. The site is located at Stillwater Cove Park, 22455 Highway 1, Jenner, Sonoma County. The 1998 storm damaged a retaining wall and shoreline which threatens the integrity of the restroom and septic system, sidewalk, beach access, and retaining wall. Approximately 100 feet of shoreline and retaining wall will be repaired using 22 cubic yards of class II roadbase, 88 cubic yards of 24 to 48-inch rip-rap, and 1.52 cubic yards of concrete. Construction is expected to occur during the late summer and fall of 1999.

A California Department of Fish and Game Stream Alteration Agreement is not necessary. A completed application was received July 22, 1999. Staff has determined that this project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Title 14, CCR, section 15301(d) as restoration of a damaged existing structure to meet current standards of public health and safety, and Section 15304(c) as a minor alteration to land. Staff proposes to determine that the project complies with the waiver of waste discharge requirements contained in resolution No. 87-113 after a 15-day comment period which ends on September 21, 1999. (Scott A. Gergus)

Mr. Roger Watson, with Land Entitlement and Development Services, has requested Water Quality Certification for placing fill in jurisdictional waters of the U.S. to construct the Lucky Store#110-1152 project. The 7.1-acre site is located at south of the intersection of Old Redwood Highway and St. Joseph's Way in Cotati, Sonoma County. Approximately 0.13 acres of seasonally ponded wetlands considered to be of low value will be filled with 200 cubic yards of select fill soils. No endangered plant species are present on the property. Filled wetlands will be mitigated by adding to an existing mitigation project on the Gobbi Ranch located at 1026 Todd Road in Santa Rosa.

A California Department of Fish and Game Stream Alteration Agreement is not necessary. The application was received July 22, 1999. To complete the application, additional information was submitted on August 3, 1999. A negative declaration for the project was approved by the Cotati City Council on December 16, 1997. The Regional Board has considered the negative declaration. Staff proposes to determine that the project complies with the waiver of waste discharge requirements contained in resolution No. 87-113 after a 15-day comment period which ends on September 21, 1999. (Scott A. Gergus)

(xi) Sonoma County Water Agency has requested certification for placing fill in jurisdictional waters of the U.S. to restore fisheries habitat. The proposed project will be located on a 200-foot wide corridor along Copeland Creek between Petaluma Hill Road and Roberts/Pressley Road east of Rohnert Park, Sonoma County. Copeland Creek is a



seasonal stream tributary to the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The purpose of the project is to restore a 5,000-foot long section of creek to pre-cattle grazing conditions by stabilizing channel banks and channel courses, and improving aquatic habitat and water quality. Fisheries restoration projects will involve fence installation, biotechnical bank stabilization, biotechnical channel adjustments, installation of aquatic habitat structures, bank recontouring, and revegetation. Construction is scheduled to occur during 1999 through 2000. The applicant will follow the Fish and Game Stream Alteration Agreement project conditions when operating heavy equipment in Copeland Creek.

The applicant has a California Department of Fish and Game Stream Alteration Agreement. The application was received July 22, 1999. To complete the application, additional information was submitted on August 23, 1999. A negative declaration for the project was approved by the Sonoma County Water Agency on August 17, 1999. The Regional Board has considered the negative declaration. Staff proposes to determine that the project complies with the waiver of waste discharge requirements contained in resolution No. 87-113 after a 15-day comment period which ends on September 21, 1999.

(Scott A. Gergus)

(xii) Forsythe Pacific, LLC., has requested certification for placing fill in jurisdictional waters of the U.S. to facilitate construction of the Mayacama Club. The proposed project will be located on a 512-acre site on Meadows Drive in Windsor, Sonoma County. The applicant proposes to fill 2.25 acres of wetlands and 0.41 acres of waters of the U.S. in order to construct a private 18-hole golf course and related facilities, installation of roads and cart paths, restoration/stabilization of erosion sites and existing ranch roads, and the installation of culverts placed in small drainages. Work will occur in four tributaries to Mark West Creek that drain the site. Impacted wetlands have been described as seasonal wetlands that occur in or adjacent to waters of the U.S., vernal swales, wetlands resulting from previous land disturbance, perennial and seasonal creeks, and intermittent and ephemeral drainages. No special status species occur on the project site. Mitigation work will include construction of new seasonal wetlands, recreation of approximately 468 feet of creek channels, installation of small erosion control structures within and along the creeks and gullies, and revegetation and rock lining segments of creeks and gullies.

The applicant has applied for a California Department of Fish and Game Stream Alteration Agreement. The application was received August 19, 1999. To complete the application, additional information was submitted on August 24, 1999. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project was approved by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors on December 20, 1994. The Regional Board has considered the EIR. The EIR identified the following potential water quality impacts: 1) The project could result in an increase of nitrate concentrations in groundwater in the project area resulting from over applying fertilizer and reclaimed wastewater. 2) Irrigation of the golf course could result in unauthorized discharges of water and reclaimed wastewater to Mark West Creek. 3) Construction activities could result in sediment discharged to Mark West Creek. The EIR discussed the following mitigations to potential water quality impacts: 1) Golf course operators will be required to adjust the rate of fertilizer application to the golf course based on nitrogen concentration in the reclaimed wastewater. 2) Catchment basins will be installed and maintained below drainages from the irrigated areas of the golf course. Summer irrigation runoff will be recirculated back to the irrigation system. Obtain an Amended General Industrial Activities Storm Water Permit for operating the Mayacama Club golf course. 3) Obtain a General Construction Activities Storm Water Permit and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. Staff proposes to determine that the project, including the above mitigation measures, complies with the waiver of waste



discharge requirements contained in resolution No. 87-113 after a 15-day comment period which ends on September 21, 1999. (Scott A. Gergus)

A fact sheet about a specific project and information about certification and opportunity for public comment may be obtained by calling the Regional Water Board office at (707) 576-2220 and asking for the specific staff person assigned to the project. (The name of the staff person is in parenthesis at the end of each descriptive paragraph.)

- 12. Closed Session. On September 23, 1999, the Regional Water Board will be meeting in closed session to discuss Significant Exposure to Litigation. [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)(B)(i).]
- 13. Closed Session. On September 23, 1999, the Regional Water Board will be meeting in closed session to discuss Whether to Initiate Litigation. [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)(C)(i).]
- 14. Closed Session. On September 23, 1999, the Regional Water Board will be meeting in closed session to discuss an Employee Evaluation. [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(a)(1).]

Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the meeting should contact Ms. Jean Spath, Executive Assistant at (707) 576-2307 at least five days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Written comments should be submitted to ensure they will be included in the record before the Board. Oral testimony should be limited to brief summaries of written testimony. Please note time limitations will be imposed on presentations and limited to five minutes unless otherwise determined by the Board Chair.

A copy of the procedures governing Regional Water Board meetings may be found at Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 647 et seq., and is available upon request. Hearings before the Regional Water Board are not conducted pursuant to Government Code Section 11500 et seq.

A quorum of the members of the Regional Water Board may recess for lunch; however, no business will be discussed.

Material presented to the Board, as part of testimony that is to be made part of the record must be left with the Board. This includes photographs, slides, charts, diagrams, written testimony, etc. All Board files pertaining to the items on this agenda are hereby made a part of the record submitted to the Regional Water Board by staff for its consideration prior to action on the related items.

All persons who actively support or oppose the adoption of waste discharge requirements or an NPDES permit being considered by the Regional Water Board must submit a statement to the Board disclosing any contribution of \$250 or more to any Regional Water Board Member. This requirement applies to contributions of \$250 or more made by the active supporter or opponent or his/her agent for use in federal, state or local elections within the last 12 months.

Also, all permit applicants and/or persons who actively support or oppose adoption of a set of waste discharge requirements or an NPDES Permit pending before the Regional Water Board are



prohibited from making a contribution of \$250 or more to any Board Member for three months following a Regional Water Board decision on the permit application.

Any person affected adversely by a decision of the Regional Water Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), to review the decision. The petition must be received by the State Water Board within 30 days of the Regional Water Board's meeting at which the action was taken. Copies of the laws and regulations applicable to filing a petition will be provided upon request.

The next Regional Water Board meeting will be held on October 28, 1999 in Eureka, California.

### California Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region

#### **Board Members**

Ross R. Liscum, Chair, Santa Rosa William A. Hoy, Weed James Mitchell, Santa Rosa Stan Plowman, Trinity Center Bev Wasson, Rio Nido

#### Staff

Lee A. Michlin, Executive Officer Craig R. Johnson, Assistant Executive Officer, Ombudsman Jean M. Spath, Executive Assistant Philip G. Wyels, Legal Counsel

#### **Watershed Protection Division**

Robert L. Tancreto, Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer Robert R. Klamt, Senior Land and Water Use Analyst (Upper Russian) John Short, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer (Lower Russian) David S. Evans, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer (Mendocino Coast) John R. Hannum, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer (Northern Watershed)

#### **Timber Harvest Division**

Frank C. Reichmuth, Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer Christine Wright-Shacklett, Senior Engineering Geologist (Mendocino Coast) Nathan P. Quarles, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer (Humboldt, Eel) Fred Blatt, Environmental Specialist IV (Klamth, Trinity) Ranjit Gill, Environmental Specialist IV (Headwaters)

#### **Cleanup and Investigation Division**

Susan A. Warner, Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer Thomas B. Dunbar, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer (Santa Rosa Watershed) Tuck Vath, Senior Engineering Geologist (Northern Watershed) Chris Igbinedion, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer (Central Watershed) Kathleen Daly, Regional Administrative Officer (Administration)



#### Bill of Rights for Environmental Permit Applicants

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) endorses the following precepts that form the basis of a permit applicant's "Bill of Rights":

- 1. Permit applicants have the right to assistance in understanding regulatory and permit requirements. All Cal/EPA programs maintain an Ombudsman to work directly with applicants. Permit Assistance Centers located throughout California have permit specialists from all State, regional, and local agencies to identify permit requirements and assist in permit processing.
- 2. Permit applicants have the right to know the projected fees for review of applications, how any costs will be determined and billed, and procedures for resolving any disputes over fee billings.
- 3. Permit applicants have the right of access to complete and clearly written guidance documents that explain the regulatory requirements. Agencies must publish a list of all information required in a permit application and of criteria used to determine whether the submitted information is adequate.
- 4. Permit applicants have the right of timely completeness determinations for their applications. In general, agencies notify the applicant within 30 days of any deficiencies or determine that the application is complete. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and public hearing requests may require additional information.
- 5. Permit applicants have the right to know exactly how their applications are deficient and what further information is needed to make their applications complete. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65944, after an application is accepted as complete, an agency may not request any new or additional information that was not specified in the original application.
- 6. Permit applicants have the right of a timely decision on their permit application. The agencies are required to establish time limits for permit reviews.
- 7. Permit applicants have the right to appeal permit review time limits by statute or administratively that have been violated without good cause. For state environmental agencies, appeals are made directly to the Cal/EPA Secretary or to a specific board. For local environmental agencies, appeals are generally made to the local governing board or, under certain circumstances, to Cal/EPA. Through this appeal, applicants may obtain a set date for a decision on their permit and in some cases a refund of all application fees (ask boards and departments for details).
- 8. Permit applicants have the right to work with a single lead agency where multiple environmental approvals are needed. For multiple permits, all agency actions can be consolidated under lead agency. For site remediation, all applicable laws can be administered through a single lead agency.
- 9. Permit applicants have the right to know who will be reviewing their application and the time required to complete the full review process.

For further information you may contact the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board at (707) 576-2220.